

Claims:



1. (Currently Amended) A method for hypothermia and rewarming of the cerebrospinal fluid in the brain comprising the steps of:
  - (a) providing a heat-exchange ventricular catheter;
  - (b) simultaneously with (a) providing a drainage ventricular catheter;
  - (c) internally implanting the distal ends of the heat exchange and drainage catheters into the cerebral ventricle through a burr hole or twist drill;  
whereby the catheters are placed within the ventricle using ventricular catheter introducers anchored into a slit opening and perforated hole to the distal ends of the catheters respectively, the distal end of the catheter placed above the level of foramen Monro within the ventricle;
  - (d) connecting the proximal end of the heat-exchange catheter connected to an infusion system;
  - (e) providing an infusion system containing sterile physiologic solution being at a temperature other than that of the cerebrospinal fluid, wherein a sterile physiologic solution flows in a fluid line into the heat-exchange catheter, the sterile physiologic solution of known chemical constituents, and prepared to preserve cell metabolic energy stores;
  - (f) providing an infusion pump programmed to deliver the sterile physiologic solution at a predetermined rate;
  - (g) infusing the sterile physiologic solution directly infused into the cerebral ventricles;
  - (h) mixing the sterile physiologic solution with cerebrospinal fluid and altering the temperature of the fluid bathing the regulatory centers in the brain, whereby the sterile physiologic solution mixes with the chemistry of the cerebrospinal fluid bathing the regulatory centers in order to maintain neuronal viability;
  - (i) draining excess cerebrospinal fluid through the drainage catheter to maintain the desired intracranial pressure;
  - (j) providing pulsatile movement of cerebrospinal fluid to cause heat exchange spreading throughout the brain and spinal cord;
  - (k) altering the temperature of cerebrospinal fluid and blood bathing wider brain areas including those involved in regulation of temperature, pain, and emotional stress and further thereby altering central afferents to the neurons in both the preoptic anterior hypothalamus and posterior hypothalamus;
  - (l) resetting the body temperature based on the temperature of the cerebrospinal fluid;
  - (m) modulating physical pain by promoting antinociceptive response;
  - (n) reducing psychological pain by reducing stimulation of periaqueductal gray area of the brain stem;
  - (o) reducing intracranial pressure by physical contraction of the cerebrospinal fluid volume in response to hypothermia;
  - (p) reducing intracranial pressure and spinal subdural pressure gradients by drainage of excess cerebrospinal fluid;
  - (q) improving neuronal cell energy stores by decreasing the cerebral metabolic rate; and
  - (r) reducing overall brain temperature by reducing metabolic heat production.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein both the heat-exchange and drainage catheter are made of silicon elastomer tubing.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the said silicon elastomer tubing is impregnated with barium sulfate to provide radiopacity.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the said silicon elastomer tubing of the heat exchange and drainage catheters are physically joined together on a firm polypropylene plate to provide rigidity, insulation and resistance to kinking and forming a single catheter with double lumen or double barrel at the proximal, mid and distal portions.
5. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the said silicon elastomer tubing is graphite-impregnated at points 5, 10, 15 cm from the proximal tip to enable the surgeon to gauge the depth of the penetration of the catheter into the lateral ventricle.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the said the distal portion of the heat exchange catheter has four slit openings at 90 degrees near the distal end, designed to provide protection from retrograde flow and occlusion of the catheter, and the distal portion of the drainage catheter has perforated holes.
7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the double barrel catheter is introduced into the ventricle using a ventricular introducer held between the first and third fingers of one hand like a pair of Chinese chopsticks with the tips inserted into the slit openings and perforated holes and released into the ventricle by a swift action.
8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the said proximal portion of the catheters has two right angle clips that are designed to angulate each catheter so that the proximal portion of the heat exchange catheter is turned away from the proximal portion of the drainage catheter.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the proximal end of the heat exchange catheter is connected to an infusion pump with regulated flow rate of cooling fluid at a set temperature, and the proximal end of the drainage catheter is connected to a cerebrospinal fluid flow control valve attached to an implanted ventriculo-peritoneal or ventriculo-atrial shunting system.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the depth of hypothermia is determined by the flow rate and temperature of the physiologic solution.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the depth of hypothermia is monitored by a system of neurointensive care monitoring devices providing the physiologic and biochemical indices of brain function, said neurointensive care devices operatively responsive to set threshold changes in depth of hypothermia and changes in cerebral autoregulation and cerebral vasoreactivity.
12. (Currently Amended) A method for hypothermia and rewarming of the cerebrospinal fluid in the brain comprising the steps of:
  - (a) providing a heat-exchange ventricular catheter forming a blind loop at the distal end;
  - (b) simultaneously with (a) providing an efferent arm for inflow of heat exchange fluid;
  - (c) simultaneously with (b) providing an afferent arm for outflow of heat exchange fluid;

- (d) providing a proximal end with an inlet and outlet to the catheter lumen through which the heat exchange fluid flows continuously;
  - (e) internally implanting the heat exchange loop catheter into the cerebral ventricle through a burr hole or twist drill;
- whereby the catheters are placed within the ventricle using ventricular catheter introducers anchored into a slit opening and perforated hole to the distal ends of the catheters respectively, the distal end of the catheter placed above the level of foramen Monro within the ventricle;
- (f) connecting the proximal end of the heat-exchange catheter connected to an infusion system;
  - (g) providing an infusion system containing heat exchange fluid being at a temperature other than that of the cerebrospinal fluid, wherein a heat exchange fluid flows in a fluid line into the heat-exchange loop catheter distal end;
  - (h) providing pulsatile movement of cerebrospinal fluid to cause heat exchange spreading throughout the brain and spinal cord;
  - (i) altering the temperature of cerebrospinal fluid and blood bathing wider brain areas including those involved in regulation of temperature, pain, and emotional stress and further thereby altering central afferents to the neurons in both the preoptic anterior hypothalamus and posterior hypothalamus;
  - (j) resetting the body temperature based on the temperature of the cerebrospinal fluid;
  - (k) modulating physical pain by promoting anti-nociceptive response;
  - (l) reducing psychological pain by reducing stimulation of periaqueductal gray area of the brain stem;
  - (m) reducing intracranial pressure by physical contraction of the cerebrospinal fluid volume in response to hypothermia;
  - (n) improving neuronal cell energy stores by decreasing the cerebral metabolic rate; and
  - (o) reducing overall brain temperature by reducing metabolic heat production.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the said blind loop catheter is made of silicon elastomer tubing.
  14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the said silicon elastomer tubing is impregnated with barium sulfate to provide radiopacity.
  15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the said silicon elastomer tubing of the catheter has afferent and efferent arms that are physically joined together on a firm polypropylene plate to provide rigidity, insulation and resistance to kinking placed in the middle to form a single continuous catheter with proximal, mid and distal portions ending in a blind loop.
  16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the said polypropylene plate had perforated holes through which the tip of the ventricular catheter introducer could be inserted.
  17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the said silicon elastomer tubing is graphite-impregnated at points 5, 10, 15 cm from the proximal tip to enable the surgeon to gauge the depth of the penetration of the catheter into the lateral ventricle.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the blind loop catheter is introduced into the ventricle using a ventricular introducer held between the first and third fingers of one hand like a pair of Chinese chopsticks with the tips inserted into the perforated holes in the middle plate and released into the ventricle by a swift action.
19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the said proximal portion of the catheters has two right angle clips that are designed to angulate each catheter so that the proximal portion of the afferent arm of the catheter is turned away from the proximal portion of the efferent arm of the catheter.
20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the proximal end of the afferent arm of the blind loop catheter is connected to an infusion pump with regulated flow rate of cooling fluid at a set temperature, and the proximal end of the catheter is connected to a cerebrospinal fluid flow control valve attached to an implanted ventriculo-peritoneal or ventriculo-atrial shunting system.